COTTON CHATS

FROM

DRAPER COMPANY

SHIPMAN'S
COMMON-SENSE BINDER

PATENTED

JANUARY 19, 1892. APRIL 19, 1904

To open binder, remove the slides from fasteners raise the fasteners to an erect position and then file papers. For punching: lay the papers on covers and mark sheets to correspond with fasteners.

If DUPLICATE is wanted ORDER 25981

ASA L. SHIPMAN'S SONS
MANUFACTURERS,
NEW YORK.

COTTON CHATS

By the secretary of the
DRAPER COMPANY,
HOPEDALE, MASS.

No. 31. SEPTEMBER, 1904.

When we began to sell Northrop looms to the trade, we figured a price that seemed justifiable, based on the increase of a weaver's capacity from eight to sixteen looms. That price has remained practically a standard ever since, though possibly varied slightly at times by changes in cost of raw material, in spite of the fact that the efficiency of our loom has certainly been increased in many ways. Sixteen looms per weaver is no longer the standard for our latest improved looms, and their range of application has been greatly broadened. Our first looms were straight print cloth looms, with little if any capacity for other weaves. As we introduced new models, we added both in quality and quantity of material, introducing new improvements wherever possible. This has continued for ten years, until we are now offering a machine which, though far more efficient, is in reality sold at a less price in proportion to the stock and labor in its construction. In our recent loom book, we figured that the extra attachments and improvements added to the loom since the start, have increased its cost to us at least $15 per loom. From a recent investigation, we find that even in the last three years, our changes have increased the expense in nearly every important particular. In order that our customers may definitely appreciate the added values now present in our loom, we call attention to a few matters brought to light during this investigation.

As to the loom frame itself, we have recently fitted up at great expense, to plane and mill the loom sides and girts, so that our looms take rank with what was formerly a higher grade of cotton mill machine. In future, our looms thus fitted will be more nearly accurate as duplicates, and the various attachments which the frame holds will work in more perfect harmony and uniformity. It is useless to

dwell on the advantages of this change in construction, as any mechanical mind can appreciate it at once. We believe we are the only American loom builders to adopt this system.

One of our very recent additions is the outside bearing for crank shaft. Builders of spinning frames in recent years have discovered the advantage of an outside bearing; in fact, there is no question whatever of its value for any machine where power is applied outside the main framework of the machine itself. The various parts necessarily add appreciably to the cost.

Our new loom take-up construction, allowing of various methods of guiding the cloth to the roll, uses quite a number of additional parts; in fact, this is one of the most expensive changes which we have recently voted.

Our double fork, which is now applied to practically all of our looms, is another of the more important and more expensive additions. Our large hopper, with capacity for 24 bobbins, is not only more efficient, but also more expensive than the former pattern. Our warp stop-motions have all been improved in detail, with various new structural changes. Our Draper-Roper let-off is considerably more costly than the Bartlett, which it replaced. We now give away loom seats on the basis of one to each eight looms sent out, with no extra charge. In fact, we have made no extra charges whatever for any of the changes mentioned in this paper. We have recently adopted a new picker-check, a new style of bobbin box, a guiding device for the lay, leather covered box plates, reinforced crank arms, and many other minor devices, all of which have increased our expense account. Any additional device not only costs more for stock and labor in manufacture, but also increases the setting-up cost.

We are explaining these matters, not with any desire of obtaining sympathy from our customers by reason of our lessened profit, but rather to show them that they are getting more value for their money at the present day than was possible in the earlier years of our loom introduction. The early purchasers found their looms so valuable, even at the prices then asked, that nearly every one of them has given us large repeat orders. If our early loom could earn a profit on its price, our present loom is certainly an attractive investment.

In view of the frequent labor troubles connected with the cotton industry, it is perhaps of interest to call attention to a few facts taken from records made by careful historians. Up to 1850, there had been but one cotton mill strike on record in the whole United States, although the labor conditions were much harsher than now and the wages much less. In the early half of the century, laborers worked for various periods, according to the season of the year, fourteen hours per day being quite common. The earlier corporations exercised a sort of paternal authority over their help, some mills even insisting that each of their employees should attend church every Sunday. The wages were very low, weavers on two looms in Fall River, early in the century, earning 30 cents per day at a price of one cent per yard (at least this is so reported by credible authority.) Board was cheap, being at the rate of $1.75 per week for men and $1.25 for women. Supplies of every kind, on the contrary, were very high, all manufactured articles being necessarily expensive in the days of crude machinery and expensive transportation. As the laborers had little time outside their working, eating and sleeping, there was little chance to spend a surplus, even if they were able to accumulate one. It is of interest, however, to note that the annual operatives' ball at Lowell priced its tickets at $5 each.

The newspapers for several weeks have had considerable to say regarding the labor conditions in our largest textile center, bringing up the old question of Southern competition as an important element in the situation. It is at this large center that the necessity for cheapening the process of production always manifests itself in time of trial. We believe that necessity has considerable to do with the situation. One hundred thousand Northrop looms are lessening the cost of weaving cloth in other localities, and those who still run common looms are forced to reduce their costs by some other method to meet this competition. Some mills are adopting cheap improvements, with the idea of trying to get their weavers to tend twelve or fourteen common looms. We believe that simple mathematics can demonstrate the better policy of adopting improvements that will allow a weaver to tend twenty-four to thirty looms.

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During our various litigations there are often amusing bits of cross-examination which may properly be made public after a sufficient period has elapsed. In looking over some printed testimony recently the following extract attracted notice. It is taken from the record of one of our own witnesses, the examination occurring nearly thirty years ago.

Cross-Int. 101. After looking around the city for two hours, or two and a half hours, as you have related, where did you next go?

Ans. We returned to the Quincy House.

Cross-Int. 102. How long did you remain at the Quincy House?

Ans. Until about half-past seven in the evening.

Cross Int. 103. Where did you then go?

Ans. We went to the Howard Athenæum.

Cross-Int. 104. A theatre?

Ans. I don't know. I don't know much about theatres.

Cross-Int. 105. Describe what sort of a place it was.

Ans. It seemed to be a show-house.

Cross-Int. 106. A moral and religious show-house, in your judgment?

Ans. I should think the upper gallery was not very moral, by the looks of the faces.

Cross-Int. 107. An exhibition, then, that was calculated to appeal to the passions rather than the intelligence of an audience, was it not?

Ans. I should think it was not intended to appeal to the passions, but to make one laugh and grow fat.

Cross-Int. 108. How much was your weight or fat increased by the exhibition?

(Objected to as frivolous.)

Ans. I don't know.

Cross-Int. 109. Who conducted you to this place of amusement?

Ans. Mr. ———.

Cross-Int. 110. After the show was out, where did you go?

Ans. We returned to the Quincy House?

Cross-Int. 111. What did you next do after your return to the Quincy House?

Ans. The principal thing I done was to go to sleep.